

Message Text

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ORIGIN USIE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /042 R

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EUR/EE:NGANDREWS

C;JMONTGOMERY

S/S:MR. ORTIZ

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O 172154Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064994

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ

SUBJECT:JOURNALISTS' VISAS

1. VOA INTENDS TO SEND CORRESPONDENT FREUND TO PRAGUE TO COVER THE PARTY CONGRESS, ARRIVING PRAGUE ABOUT APRIL 12.

2. WE HAVE EXAMINED FORMAT OF CZECH VISA APPLICATION AND FOUND THAT IT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR ANY DETAILED OUTLINE OF CORRESPONDENT'S IDENTIFICATION OR PURPOSE OF VISIT. VOA WILL THUS ADVISE FREUND TO INDICATE IN APPLICATION BOX FOR PROFESSION 'CORRESPONDENT' OR 'JOURNALIST'. THE SPACE FOR ORGANIZATION IS SIMILARLY LIMITED IN SPACE AND FREUND WILL BE ADVISED TO FILL IN THAT BLOCK WITH "USIA/VOA" SPACE PROVIDED ON APPLICATION FOR PURPOSE OF VISIT WILL NOT PERMIT MORE THAN ONE WORD, WHICH FREUND WILL IDENTIFY SIMPLY AS "REPORTAGE", "REPORTORIAL ASSIGNMENT" OR "JOURNALISM."

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3. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ON PART OF VOA THAT ITS CORRESPONDENTS BE TREATED AS BONA FIDE JOURNALISTS IN EVERY SENSE. OMMISSION OF "VOA" FROM VISA APPLICATION WOULD REPRESENT REGRESSIVE STEP, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF

GOC'S PREVIOUS ACCEPTANCE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VOA IN ACCREDITATIONS DURING PREVIOUS VISITS BY VOA CORRESPONDENTS. OTHER EAST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, AND THE SOVIETS, HAVE GENERALLY ACCEPTED IDENTIFICATION OF VOA JOURNALISTS AS "VOA", AND HAVE NOT INSISTED ON LINKING VISITS WITH SPECIFIC EVENTS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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